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Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 176

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WORLDWIDE REPORT

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CONTENTS

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

Finnish-Soviet Fishing Accords Reached (HUFVUDSTADSBLADET, 6 Nov 81)	1
---	---

ASIA

AUSTRALIA

Oil Exploration Results in Gippsland Basin Promising (Brian Hale; THE AUSTRALIAN, 2 Oct 81)	2
--	---

INDIA

Indian Ocean Commission Reported Under Study (PATRIOT, 3 Oct 81)	2
Roy Stresses Need To Guard Offshore Wealth (THE STATESMAN, 29 Sep 81)	4

Briefs New Coast Guard Ship	5
--------------------------------------	---

NEW ZEALAND

Fishing Companies Seek To Replace Foreign Joint Ventures (NEW ZEALAND HERALD, various dates)	6
Super Seiners Ordered Import Delays Foreseen Three Constraints Cited	

LATIN AMERICA

BARBADOS

Briefs	
Vessel Pollution Control	9

GUATEMALA

Minister Explains Country's Marine Resources Policy (PRENSA LIBRE, 5 Oct 81)	10
---	----

NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

MOROCCO

Seminar Discusses Arbitration of Maritime Disputes (MAROC SOIR, 1 Oct 81)	11
--	----

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ministers Council Approves Maritime Law Project (AL-BAYAN, 27 Oct 81)	13
--	----

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

CAPE VERDE

Details on Tuna Fishing Agreement With Spain (VOZ DI POVO, 7 Oct 81)	14
---	----

SEYCHELLES

French Fishing Industry Cooperation Reported (NATION, 16 Oct 81)	15
---	----

Briefs	
Fishing Research	17
Territorial Waters Protection	17

SIERRA LEONE

Soviets Sign New Fisheries Development Pact (DAILY MAIL, 14 Oct 81)	18
--	----

WEST EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Greenland, Faeroes Agree on Fisheries Test (GRONLANDSPOSTEN, 30 Sep 81)	19
Sweden Intends To Exclude Danish Fishing in Territorial Waters (BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, 19 Oct 81)	20
Agreement With EC Allows Danish Fishermen To Return to North Sea (BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, 8 Oct 81)	21

FINNISH-SOVIET FISHING ACCORDS REACHED

PM111159 Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET in Swedish 6 Nov 81 p 21

[Text] Next year Finnish fishermen will be able to fish 35 tons of salmon in Soviet waters in the Gulf of Finland. A total of 15 vessels will be allowed to fish simultaneously.

Soviet fishermen will be able to fish a maximum of 3,600 tons of Baltic herring and 900 tons of sprats in the Finnish fisheries zone in the northern Baltic, with a maximum of 25 vessels fishing simultaneously.

This was agreed between the two countries in negotiations in Helsinki. The protocol for next year's fishing arrangements was signed Thursday [5 November].

At the same time a fisheries agreement of a permanent nature was also signed between Finland and the Soviet Union. It was signed for Finland by Minister Veikko Saarto, who deals with fisheries questions in the Finnish Government, and by First Deputy Fisheries Minister Nikolay P. Kudryavtsev for the Soviet Union.

The present agreement, which expires at the end of the year, is valid for 5 years. The intention is that the new agreement will come into force at the beginning of next year.

According to the agreement the two countries will hold annual negotiations on fishing in their respective zones. Then the two sides will decide on the other side's catch quotas, fishing seasons, the number of fishing boats, fishing tackle and, if necessary, areas in which to fish.

Practical and scientific problems will be discussed by a joint committee. There has been a similar committee under the terms of the present agreement.

The agreement also includes regulations regarding fishing vessels and their activities and on compensation for possible damage.

CSO: 5200/2010

OIL EXPLORATION RESULTS IN GIPPSLAND BASIN PROMISING

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 2 Oct 81 p 15

[Article by Brian Hale]

[Text]

THE Hudbay Oil (Australia) led group exploring the offshore Gippsland Basin has found encouraging hydrocarbon shows in the first well of its new program.

But the value of the find still is not clear, despite apparently optimistic comments by the Victorian Minister for Minerals and Energy, Mr Crozier, yesterday.

Hudbay, which has an equal stake in the offshore P11 permit with Beach Petroleum NL and Gas and Fuel Exploration NL, said the West Seahorse No 1 well had produced hydrocarbon indications over the interval 1393m to 1440m.

The depth of the interval indicating hydrocarbons is regarded as promising, but the apparent lack of coring by the explorers may indicate that extremely thin sands have made it impossible to take a core.

If so, the strong initial indications could prove to be of little significance. The companies have adopted a cautious approach, saying the significance of the indications would be determined in due course by logging and if warranted, by formation testing.

But Mr Crozier said faith in the Gippsland Basin area was "clearly justified by the significant discovery in West Seahorse".

Other explorers would be encouraged by the announcement, which augured well for the success of drilling programs now being carried out by Esso-BHP and those projected for next year by

Aquitains, Phillips and Shell, said Mr Crozier.

The Hudbay well is about 5 km from the seahorse well drilled by Esso-BHP some time ago--which also produced hydrocarbon shows--and is not far from the site of another well in the area planned by Esso-BHP in its present program.

It is not known when the big Bass Strait partners will get to their site, but they reported yesterday that the Southern Cross drillship, now conducting their 30-well program, had resumed drilling at Palmer No 1 after plugging and abandoning the Bream No 4A well.

CSO: 5200/7507

INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION REPORTED UNDER STUDY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Oct 81 p 5

[Text]

VISAKHAPATNAM, Oct 3

(UPI)

THE Union Government is considering setting up an Indian Ocean Commission shortly, according to Additional Secretary in the Department of Ocean Development K Saigal.

Mr Saigal told newsmen here yesterday that the Centre had formulated a national policy for science and technology. He hoped it would be made public by the end of the year.

Dr G S Sidhu, Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), who was also present at the news conference, said the CSIR was planning to mine at least 100,000 tonnes of nodules from the seas by 1985.

He said India was anxious to improve its deep sea mining technology. As part of these exercises, the first of four seminars on ocean development is being held here from yesterday.

Dr Sidhu said the Visakhapatnam seminar would address itself to the available facilities for education, including research and training, in ocean development in the country. This would be followed by a seminar at Goa from 17 to 19 October, which would concentrate on the exploration and exploitation of non-living sea wealth (minerals).

Another seminar would be held on 6 and 7 November at Cochin, on the living wealth of the seas.

CSO: 5200/7003

ROY STRESSES NEED TO GUARD OFFSHORE WEALTH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 29 Sep 81 p 3

[Text] Vice-Admiral M. K. Roy, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, said in Calcutta on Monday that Indian Navy's forces in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands had been strengthened to push back any attempt to encroach on India's territory or off-shore economic wealth. Naval installations in the area had been improved and amphibious exercises had been carried out.

Vice-Admiral Roy was addressing officers and sailors at the INS Netaji Subhash, the Navy's shore establishment in the city. He reminded the sailors that India was a peace-loving country, but an inch of its territory would not be given up without challenge.

Later, talking to reporters, he said that Pakistan was modernizing its Navy. It was acquiring a number of missile carriers and submarines. He stressed the need for expansion of the Indian Navy to perform better in peace as well as in war.

He said that the Navy needed more vessels to guard the country's off-shore economic wealth. Poaching was a regular phenomenon specially near the Sandheads. Naval ships carried out frequent raids in the areas. But, he emphasized that the Navy must be backed by appropriate legislation regarding protection of off-shore wealth to function more effectively. Vice-Admiral Roy was given a guard of honour at INS Netaji Subhash.

CSO: 5200/7002

BRIEFS

NEW COAST GUARD SHIP--Bombay, Sept 26 (PTI)--The launching of the first off-shore patrol vessel, built by the Mazagaon dock for the Indian Coast Guard, was a significant step taken for building up of its fleet, Vice Admiral S. Prakash, Director-General of the Coast Guard said here today. Speaking at a function where Mrs Satya Mehra, wife of the Maharashtra Governor launched the vessel and christened it 'Vikram'. Vice Admiral Prakash said there were two more such vessels ordered with the Mazagaon dock, expected to be delivered in 1983-84. He said in the 10-year plan of the Indian Coast Guard beginning 1978--the year of creation of the Coast Guard by an act of Parliament--the fleet was expected to rise to 60 ships, 30 aircraft and 15 helicopters. By the end of the first five years, the Coast Guard already had 15 ships. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Sep 81 p 5]

CSO: 5200/7001

FISHING COMPANIES SEEK TO REPLACE FOREIGN JOINT VENTURES

Super Seiners Ordered

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 6 Oct 81 p 6

[Text]

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries anticipates no problems in granting an import licence to an Auckland fishing company for a new super seiner to replace the *Sunbeito*, which sank off Tauranga about a week ago.

Sanford Ltd has applied for permission to import a new craft before the skipjack tuna season starts at the end of next month.

A ministry spokesman said yesterday that the application was "an exceptional case" and no great problems were anticipated.

Joint Ventures

The ministry is now handling a rush of applications from local fishing companies wishing to import large craft, but it said no decisions on the others would be announced until all the applications had been processed.

The applications are mostly for trawlers to replace many foreign joint-venture craft.

Some of the country's largest fishing companies started the ball rolling over a month ago by applying for big new

craft, and now most companies dependent on foreign joint ventures for some of their catches have followed suit.

The liaison officer for the New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen, Mr Ian McWhannell, said many of the companies realised they had to get their own craft because joint ventures could be folded on.

The ministry called some months ago for submissions from all sections of the fishing industry on the future development of the industry and joint ventures.

The Government has yet to decide on the future of joint ventures, as far as trawl fishing is concerned.

Squid joint ventures with mostly Japanese squid jigging boats will go ahead as usual this year although there is not expected to be a great deal of Japanese interest because its home market is saturated.

The ministry's next decision will be on how skipjack tuna is to be fished this summer.

The past practice has been to allow some American joint-venture super seiners

and give local tuna boats exclusive catching rights within the 12-mile territorial limit.

Exclusive Zone

There have been squabbles over this arrangement from both camps and a ministry spokesman said it would be unable to keep everyone happy when it set the terms again this season.

New Zealand companies, using locally owned and manned boats, have been seeking a larger exclusive zone and claim there is no place for foreign super seiners in New Zealand waters.

Decisions on foreign trawl joint ventures may have wide ramifications for the large Russian fishing fleet in these waters.

Many of these deep-sea fishing ventures now stand right in the path of progress being pursued by many local fishermen.

The demise of Russian joint-venture fishing could also be hastened by concern across the Tasman from Australian fishermen who have complained at the extent of Russian-caught New Zealand fish which is being exported.

Import Delays Foreseen

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 12 Oct 81 p 18

[Text]

Fishermen wanting to import new deep-sea trawlers may have to wait until April to get their boats because the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has been swamped with import applications.

The director of the ministry's management division, Mr Brian Cunningham, said the import scheme had "gelled" much sooner than expected.

Applications have been received for about 17 boats with a value of about \$25 million, but not all are regarded as viable propositions.

Mr Cunningham said if all the applications were approved it would place too much pressure on the re-

source. The new boats should be phased in progressively when annual catch quotas were established.

Foreign joint-venture craft will have to make room for the new local deep-sea trawlers. Mr Cunningham said the fish joint-venture agreements ran out on March 1.

For that reason it was unlikely anyone would get new deep-sea trawlers before Christmas, he said.

Some companies, notably the Fletcher-Challenger group, had hoped to get its own deep-sea craft as soon as possible.

It has been estimated 30 foreign-venture craft could be affected by the so-called localisation plans for trawling.

Mr Cunningham stressed that the problem was essentially one of trying to phase in new boats and take

into account annual catch allocations.

It is understood the combined capacity of the new boats sought by local fishermen amounts to about 30,000 tonnes of fish a year.

Fishing industry sources suggest it would be practical to phase in a few new deep-sea trawlers each year without creating much strain.

The industry has already expressed concern that the principle of serving the local industry first may be waived a little for fear of offending the major foreign nations engaged in joint-venture fishing.

Japan, in particular, repeatedly asked New Zealand to consider the problem it faces in reducing the size of its deep-sea fishing operations as a result of the creation of 200-mile zones.

Three Constraints Cited

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 19 Oct 81 p 8

[Text]

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries believes New Zealand fishermen cannot hope to replace all the foreign joint-venture craft and make a profit.

The ministry estimates that a cut of about 25 per cent in all joint-venture catches would be necessary to achieve profitability in the type of fishing that joint-venture companies are doing.

All foreign joint ventures must be reviewed before March 31, and local companies have already flooded the ministry with applications to import new deep-sea boats to take over.

The ministry believes much of the joint-venture fleet is now working at a loss and rationalisation is already taking place.

Even so, it would cost up to \$180 million to buy New Zealand-owned boats and equipment to replace the chartered trawl fleet.

Working Needs

So far, local companies have applied for import licences to introduce about \$35 million worth of deep-sea craft to take over from foreign joint ventures.

The extent of foreign investment in the industry has yet to be assessed but the

ministry says that funds called up by most joint-venture companies are sufficient only to meet the working capital needs.

There has been little or no investment in fixed assets.

There are three major constraints on further expansion by the local industry. The high level of investment required — a total of about \$180 million to take over from joint ventures; inadequate marketing facilities and a shortage of local skilled deep-sea fishermen.

More Stocks

The ministry says better marketing could substantially improve the return to New Zealand fishermen from improved quality, market assessment and presentation.

The potential value of the 200-mile zone has increased, particularly with the rapid development of orange-roughie stocks on the northern side of the Chatham Rise. Exploratory fishing has revealed the possibility of more stocks.

Coastal demersal (bottom-schooling) fish catches continued to decline last year.

even though the catching effort continued to increase.

Snapper was the most important wet fish landed by New Zealand fishermen, accounting for 14.5 per cent of all wet-fish landings.

The ministry notes that, of all the country's primary industries, fishing was worst hit by cost inflation and the economic recession in principal markets, but production and export returns continued to increase.

About 110,460 tonnes of fish were exported last year, worth \$162.4 million. That was a 20,000-tonne increase on the previous year.

CSO: 5200/9069

BRIEFS

VESSEL POLLUTION CONTROL--Government backbencher Mr Henry Forde has called for policing of the south coast by the Coast Guard to prevent ships from discharging oil into the sea. The MP for Christ Church West told the House of Assembly on Tuesday that damage to marine life on the south coast was due not so much to sewerage problem as to the dumping of oil in the waters. He said that a reef barrier in some areas of the coastline have been destroyed by this practice. Mr Forde said that this was one of the reasons why the Opposition should join with Government in welcoming the upgrading of the Coast Guard service. The existing Coast Guard vessels were incompetent even in providing an adequate defence, far less surveillance, he said. If Barbados was serious about preserving its marine life and coastline, he said, then much would have to be done to improve the Coast Guard. The former Attorney General told the House of Assembly that this would cost money and it would be nonsensical to make the public believe that a proper Coast Guard service was not necessary or that the cost of such upgrading would not have to be borne by the taxpayers. "Barbadian politicians have got to the stage of wooing the electorate by pretending projects cost nothing. Politicians must learn to tell the public the truth. They must tell them what is being done and what the consequential cost will be," he said. "We cannot afford in this day and age of economic crisis because of recession to pretend that this country can escape any of its effects," Mr Forde said. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Oct 81 p 2]

CSO: 5200/7506

MINISTER EXPLAINS COUNTRY'S MARINE RESOURCES POLICY

Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Oct 81 pp 8, 92

[Text] Guatemala is modernizing itself to take the lead with other nations in protecting our marine resources as an answer to domestic food needs, stated Agriculture Minister Francisco Bobadilla Palomo.

Bobadilla said that, in accordance with the national development plan, the government is committed to developing an industry originating in marine resources and those of other bodies of water, based on experiments and facts that, he added, confirm the need to promote a better technology that will include recommendations on quantity and volume of coastal traffic and depth of fishing, besides specifications on fishing equipment, such as mesh and other items, and on the boats that are used in this type of operation.

"The marine resources of our country, on which depend and which will constitute in the future the most valuable sources of animal life and of national wealth," said Bobadilla, "have, for 3 months, been the object of better inspection and distribution."

"In view of this," Bobadilla said, "since these resources are the object of exploitation, the state has the obligation to look after the supervision of these food sources."

"Inspection of the fishing zones on an international level in what concerns Guatemala must be, as we have already said, a constant concern in order to achieve a balance of these resources. Only in this way will we be protecting the wealth of marine animal life, at the same time that we will be promoting in a more technical way the use of those species that must be developed in order to increase the percentage of food of animal origin and rich protein value for the Guatemalan people."

Bobadilla added that the new conduct in this sphere of activity includes prohibited zones and seasons.

"For this reason," he concluded, "the Ministry of Agriculture is sure that the source of marine resources will never be jeopardized. Very much to the contrary. Guatemala already is progressing in this regard as a provision for joining with other nations that have found in the sea the answer to domestic food needs and strengthening of their economy by exporting marine products."

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CSO: 5200/2005

SEMINAR DISCUSSES ARBITRATION OF MARITIME DISPUTES

Casablanca MAROC SOIA in French 1 Oct 81 pp 1-2

[Text] The Moroccan Chamber of Maritime Arbitration held a seminar on maritime arbitration in Casablanca 25-26 September 1981 under the sponsorship of the prime minister and minister of justice. Participants included the most eminent international experts in maritime law: Dr Stuedter, president of the International Maritime Arbitration Organization, Dr Trappe of Hamburg, Dr Barclay of London, professors Bonassies, De Grancourt, Du Pontavice, and Villeneuve of France, Dr Kijffels of Anvers, and Mr Baroudi of Beirut. They clearly expressed their interest in the guiding international role which the Moroccan Chamber of Maritime Arbitration has played on the African continent and in the Arab world.

The president of the Moroccan chamber, Driss Dahak, director of the National Institute of Judicial Studies, chaired the proceedings and debates of the seminar, which assembled all our country's legal and maritime personalities.

In his opening speech, the prime minister and minister of justice stressed the current importance and value of arbitration in maritime issues, and noted that the role of the Moroccan chamber is part of His Majesty the King's proclaimed policy. The prime minister's speech, read by Mr Mikou, was as follows:

The proliferation of means of communication among continents, the increase in number of international agreements, and the development of international and multinational corporations have enabled the expansion of international markets.

"As a result, there has been an increase in the number of litigations, particularly maritime, concerning navigation, freight transport, fishing, and marine insurance.

"To resolve these disputes, the organizations concerned, both public and private, as well as individuals, are reluctant to cite the legislation of a particular country, in order to avoid coming into conflict with that of other countries. The caution of international law on this area, and the absence of civil law rulings have promoted the emergence of a new body of law based on practices and customs of the profession and principles of equity.

"The result of this situation is that an arbiter appears best able to resolve such litigations, and this is why maritime arbitration is such an important field of arbitration in general. Islam has always been interested in problems of the sea and arbitration. Several Koran verses deal with it. God regards use of the

sea as an inseparable part of human life. On the subject, we find this among other Koran verses: 'We honored the children of Adam. We carried them over the land and sea.' Travel of ships is also regarded as beneficial to humanity: 'The vessel which roams the sea to bring useful things to man...More specifically on arbitration: "If you fear a split between the two parties, call on an arbitrator..."

Arbitration in general, and maritime arbitration in particular, are regarded as fundamental elements in application of equitable justice and preservation of maritime benefits. Arbitration is an integral part of justice, and arbitrators are its assistants who work in the interest of national and international maritime trade on the one hand, and relieve the overburdened court officials on the other. They issue arbitration decisions which will be endorsed and implementation assured by the court officials.

If a certain juridical void has prompted the emergence of arbitration, this situation results from our society's inability to develop special legislation which can be applied equitably to all countries having the same concept of justice.

Morocco opens onto the Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the important Strait of Gibraltar, and has almost 3,000 kilometers of coastline. It has maritime ambitions and major projects such as the permanent link between Africa and Europe announced by King Hassan II. Morocco has great maritime potential and wealth, particularly in fish resources, and it is open for sea trade to the entire world. A country with such assets thus has responsibility to be a leader in such initiatives as formation of the Moroccan Chamber of Maritime Arbitration, after having encouraged arbitration on the national and international level. Thus, the country was one of the first to ratify the international agreement of 10 June 1958 in New York on recognition and implementation of foreign arbitration decisions. The agreement became effective in 1959. Morocco also ratified on 22 April 1970 the Hague convention of 1 March 1954 on civil law procedure. On the national level, the civil law procedure code contains 22 articles (art 306 to art 327) governing arbitration. The implication of these provisions is to encourage arbitration, especially since it is based on rules of equity without reference to juridical ruling to which the parties from then on consent. (art 317)

Furthermore, there is no appeal of the arbitration decision, and the decision can be issued in execution form by simple order of the president of the court of first instance. (art 320)

Our purpose in organizing this occasion, with participation by eminent foreign professors, specialists in the field, as well as Moroccan professors and experts experienced in maritime affairs, was to encourage the recently created Moroccan Chamber of Maritime Administration. We hope that its role will not be limited to our country but extend to others, Arab and African in particular. We hope also by example to persuade fellow developing countries to form their own chambers of arbitration.

The road we follow, and that laid out by our enlightened guide, King Hassan II, is in the direction of obtaining for Morocco and the developing countries their deserved role in maritime affairs. On several occasions his majesty has affirmed that Morocco is in favor of participating in the development of non-coastal African states by joint exploitation of the maritime wealth of the more favored countries.

MINISTERS COUNCIL APPROVES MARITIME LAW PROJECT

Dubai AL-BAYAN in Arabic 27 Oct 81 p 4

[Article: "Council of Ministers: Agreement on Law of Sea Project for Supervision, Inspection, Regulation of Ship Registration"]

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers agreed on a report issued by the Ministry of Communication regarding the state's law of the sea project.

The law is aimed at bolstering domestic and foreign trade by developing a modern fleet which would carry the state's flag.

The law regulates ship registration, the supervision of cargo and inspection and identification of ships. It also regulates steps to be taken in the event a ship and its cargo are sunk as well as material claims concerning the cargo, priority rights for the ship, maritime liens and impoundment of ships.

The Council of Ministers also agreed that the United Arab Emirates should join the Islamic Shipowners Union and it approved the basic organization of the union which was established by decision of the third Islamic summit conference.

The union seeks to coordinate and unify the efforts of member countries to achieve cooperation between maritime transport companies in Islamic countries. It also seeks to utilize the capabilities of the countries' fleets in the interests of these countries and to provide advice and support to such countries in international maritime matters. In such a matter the Islamic world and the rest of the world will be connected by a complete maritime shipping network.

CSO: 5200/4703

DETAILS ON TUNA FISHING AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN

Praia VOZ DI POVO in Portuguese 7 Oct 81 p 12

[Text] Support from Spain for the protection of our maritime species, research and protection in the field of stocks, especially in relations to tuna, will be our gains in an agreement signed with Spain by Minister of Economy and Finance Lopes da Silva and the Spanish Government during this official's visit to this country.

A Spanish fleet of 20 boats will fish for tuna in Cape Verdian waters, the minister stated, adding: "This agreement with Spain is within the framework of our policy to take advantage of our strategic position on the eastern Atlantic [as published] and in an area where schools of tuna travel.

"To attract boats to S. Vicente and fully utilize our cold storage facilities and shipyards, which are in their completion phase, we are practicing a policy aimed at attracting fleets.

"One of the incentives we can offer these fleets is to authorize them to fish beyond the 12-mile limit of territorial waters, in accordance with standing legislation. On the basis of this fishing agreement, we shall authorize 20 tuna boats to fish in our waters and there will be a program on the part of Spain to protect the various species, to conduct research and practice conservation in the field of stocks. We shall thus be receiving the assistance of a country with the largest fishing fleet in the world. Spain being a country that depends on tuna, it is fully conscious of the need to conserve the various species."

In relation to the agreement and to tuna, the minister added: "There are certain people who are somewhat fearful of a fishing agreement, but the truth is that tuna must be considered from an all-encompassing point of view. Tuna is a migratory species, and if we would not authorize tuna boats to fish for tuna in our waters, they will go ahead and fish for it somewhere else. There are no tuna reserves belonging to Cape Verde or to other countries. There are stocks of this fish. But there should be concern to conserve the species and offer the necessary conditions for its multiplication. Spain is the kind of partner that is very interested in this subject."

CSO: 5200/5611

FRENCH FISHING INDUSTRY COOPERATION REPORTED

Victoria NATION in French 16 Oct 81 pp 1-2

[Text] The French vessel "Yves de Kerguelen," a tuna seiner-freezer (specializing in seine fishing) specially equipped for research and with a helicopter on board, will conduct an experimental run of at least 6 months in Seychelles waters.

Yesterday morning, the Seychelles Government gave its approval to the French Consortium for Fishing Development (COFRE-Pêche), owner of the vessel. The consortium was designated by the French Ministry of Fishing to head the tuna run, in keeping with the agreement made on 24 March between the two governments for cooperation in the field of tuna fishing.

The financial backing for the run is divided equally by the French consortium and the French Ministry of Fishing. A total of 16 million French francs (18 million Seychelles rupees) have been allocated for the venture, which enjoys maximum privileges from the Seychelles Government for the duration of the season, a national contribution to the success of the operation.

The "Yves de Kerguelen" will leave the port of Dakar (Senegal) on 24 October and enter Seychelles waters around mid November.

Launched in 1980, this modern boat is 70 meters long and has a freezing capacity of between 600 and 800 tons, depending on the size of the fish.

During the run, to be conducted in close cooperation with the Division of Fishing, it will have the scientific aid of ORSTOM (Overseas Scientific and Technical Research Office) and the support of a prospecting plane for 2 months.

The agreement protocol was signed on Thursday morning by the minister of planning and development, Maxime Ferrari, and M. Raynaud, president of COFRE-Pêche, on behalf of France. The ceremony was also attended by Minister St Ange, French Ambassador Francis Dore and their close aides.

Speaking on the occasion of the signing, Minister Ferrari emphasized the importance of the fishing sector to the country's economic development and the priority that it must be given.

He stressed the significant contribution of the Seychelles to this coming tuna run and expressed the hope that its success will lay the foundations for continued cooperation in the field of tuna fishing.

Measuring the responsibility which this new battle entails, the president of COFRE-Pêche said that the new undertaking would be faced with modesty and caution, with the objective of providing every opportunity of success.

For his part, the French ambassador noted the partnership of fishing professionals in this cooperation venture which, as it shapes up today, is a contribution to development and success, confirming the choices made by the Seychellois. (SAP)

11,464

CSO: 5200/5608

SEYCHELLES

BRIEFS

FISHING RESEARCH--Victoria, 15 Oct--France and the Seychelles today signed an agreement on a three million-dollar research programme into net fishing in local waters. Under the agreement the French fishing consortium Cofrepeche on behalf of the French Government will carry out a six-month programme from next month designed to find the best methods of exploiting the abundant fish resources in the Seychelles, especially tuna. Cofrepeche will use a specially equipped fishing vessel and a helicopter, and will be helped by the French research organisation ORSTOM. Earlier this year four modern French tuna boats sent to the Seychelles as an experiment failed to catch fish in commercial quantities. (A.F.P.) [Text] [Paris AFRICA AFP in English 16 Oct 81 p 30]

TERRITORIAL WATERS PROTECTION--The Seychelles People's Navy has added another fast patrol boat to its fleet guarding the country's exclusive economic zone. This vessel was handed over to Seychelles at the weekend as a gift from the Soviet Union. At a ceremony at the New Port, Defence Minister Mr Ogilvy Berlouis accepted the boat after signing an agreement aboard with the Soviet Assistant Economic Advisor, Mr Arkady Tchiriatnikov, who is based in Madagascar. The handing-over ceremony was in the presence of members of the Defense Forces Council, other senior officials of the Seychelles People's Defense Forces and members of the Soviet Embassy. Minister Berlouis, who said the patrol boat would provide additional protection to our fishing grounds against poachers, later sailed it for a while off North Mahe. The navy already has other patrol boats from France and Britain. Second Lieutenant Leonard Lablache is commanding the vessel. [Text] [Victoria NATION in English 19 Oct 81 p 1]

CSO: 5200/5610

SOVIETS SIGN NEW FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PACT

Freetown DAILY MAIL in English 14 Oct 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] A new fisheries protocol agreement which will be of mutual and immense benefit to both Sierra Leone and USSR was signed in Freetown yesterday.

The agreement was signed after the Fifth session of the Joint Sierra Leone and USSR Fisheries Commission.

The Agreement among other things will provide for a joint trawler fishing in the Sierra Leone waters and will also cover scientific management of fisheries resources.

It will also consider the training of personnel on various aspects of fisheries and explore possible target areas for the development of fishing for the next one year.

In a brief address, the Minister of Natural Resources, Mr K. C. Gbamanja who signed on behalf of Sierra Leone, described the Commission's deliberations during the past one-week as a worthwhile job.

The leader of the USSR delegation, Mr V. Kryznevski described their deliberations as a very serious venture which would ensure the future development of both countries when implemented.

The signing of the documents was also witnessed by the USSR Ambassador in Sierra Leone, Mr Alexander Vorozhtsov; the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Natural Resources, Mr C. D. Williams; the Managing Director Sierra Fisheries, Mr Jamil Sahid Mohamed and Senior officials of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Sierra Fisheries.

CSO: 5200/5607

GREENLAND, FAEROES AGREE ON FISHERIES TEST

Godthab GRONLANDSPOSTEN in Danish 30 Sep 81 p 14

[Article by 11p]

[Text] For the first time, Greenland has been awarded an ammassat fishing quota off the east coast and the government has decided to use it for test fishing.

The Trade Directorate in this instance followed a proposal submitted by the Greenlandic Shipowners' Association (AAK), which earlier sought permission to manage this fishing.

AAK has signed an agreement with the government whereby the Shipowners' Association will administer the entire quota of 30,000 tons and deposit the profits in a closed account. Money from this account can only be withdrawn with the consent of the government and shall be used for further test fishing.

The original idea was to have AAK charter the necessary fishing vessels. However, to avoid the financial risk, it was decided to lease the quota to Faeroese trawlers. They will pay AAK 2 ore per kilogram of ammassat.

Furthermore, the government has stipulated that Greenlanders should have an opportunity to learn this fishing. AAK has therefore requested that the Faeroese fishing vessels be manned with Greenlanders.

It is unusual to lease EEC fishing quotas to nations outside the EEC, but the Danish foreign ministry has approved the arrangement, partly because Greenlanders are "apprentices" and partly because the Faeroes is part of the Danish community.

8952

CSO: 5200/2006

SWEDEN INTENDS TO EXCLUDE DANISH FISHING IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 19 Oct 81 pt III p 1

[Text] Sweden is threatening to prevent Danish fishermen from fishing in Swedish waters. It is also considering levying a 15 percent duty on imported Danish fish filets and canned fish products valued at a half billion kroner annually.

This is in response to a decision by the EEC fishing ministers to abolish the duty-free status on herring sold to EEC countries.

Sweden's agricultural ministry is demanding that the EEC reverse its decision. Department Secretary Tore Gustavsson told Ritzau's Bureau that Sweden may be forced to cancel its fishing agreement with the EEC.

"The reason Sweden made unilateral accommodations with respect to EEC fishing products was continued duty-free exportation of Swedish herring to Denmark, among other things. That reason has been eliminated by the EEC decision," said Tore Gustavsson.

Fishing Minister Karl Hjornas' response to this was that upcoming negotiations may well lead to continued duty-free arrangements.

"The decision will not take effect until March 1982 at the earliest and the EEC Council of Ministers has passed a resolution making it possible to suspend the duty should it be impossible to obtain raw materials in sufficient amounts and of sufficiently good quality from within the EEC nations."

8952

CSO: 5200/2006

AGREEMENT WITH EC ALLOWS DANISH FISHERMEN TO RETURN TO NORTH SEA

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 8 Oct 81 p 34

[Text] Yesterday Fisheries Minister Karl Hjordnaes signed an announcement that allows Danish fishermen to fish for herring in the North Sea again following a halt that has been in effect since February 1977.

Karl Hjordnaes told RITZAUS BUREAU that access to herring fishing has been opened up in the southern part of the North Sea and in the English Channel. The fisheries minister did not set any quotas on herring fishing which can start the day after the announcement is published in LOVTIDENDE which will occur either Saturday or Tuesday.

Herring fishing in the North Sea has been banned since 1977 when overfishing threatened the fish population in the area.

The Danish government's step should be seen against the background of the action of the EC Commission which went around the EC Council of Ministers to allow herring fishing in the southern part of the North Sea and west of Scotland.

"I know that both Holland and Great Britain have started fishing for herring in the southern part of the North Sea and in the Channel. Therefore I see no other choice than to give Danish fishermen the same opportunity even though all this fishing is being done on a doubtful legal basis due to the lack of a decision by the council," said the minister.

The EC Commission decided that 60,000 tons of herring can be caught in the area west of Scotland and 20,000 in the southern North Sea, with the idea of assigning only 1000 tons in the North Sea to Denmark.

"We have sharply protested the actions of the commission and do not accept any quota for the area," Hjordnaes emphasized.

Of the opportunities of Danish fishermen to catch herring west of Scotland Hjordnaes said that this question is more complicated because Denmark does not have a tradition of fishing in that area. But he did not rule out the possibility of opening up fishing opportunities in that area too later on.

The chairman of the Danish Ocean Fishing Association, Laurits Tornaes, greeted the minister's decision with satisfaction and he said clearly that there is now a basis for Danish herring fishing in the North Sea.

He referred among other things to the fact that herring from Sweden is subject to a duty of 15 percent as a step in the approved market arrangement for fish in EC. This has led to fears in North Jutland that there would be a shortage of raw materials for the industry, leading to unemployment there.

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